

**DEVICE AND METHOD FOR AUTOMATICALLY TUFTING UPHOLSTERY**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The present invention is a device for the automatic tufting of upholstery units using tufts comprising a retaining link with a tuft element at either end and associated with further tufts is provided. The device comprises engagement device for a tuft device for separating the engaged tuft from the associated tufts; device for driving one tuft element and the retaining link of the engaged tuft through an upholstery unit and withdrawing the engagement device once the tuft is released; and device for automatically reloading the device with a further tuft. A method of automatically tufting upholstery units using such a device is also provided.

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